

A NEW SPECIES OF *UNERUS* FROM HONDURAS (HOMOPTERA: CICADELLIDAE)^{1,2}

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ABSTRACT: A deltocephaline leafhopper *Unerus gilvus* n. sp. is described from Honduras, and compared with *U. colonus* (Uhler) and *U. fessulus* (Van Duzee).

Linnavouri (1959) revised the deltocephaline leafhoppers of the genus *Unerus* DeLong and included two subgenera, *Unerus* with three species and *Matto grossus* with one species. Linnavouri and DeLong (1978) added *fessulus* (Van Duzee) to the subgenus *Unerus*. I add one additional species from Honduras to this same subgenus.

Unerus gilvus n. sp.
(Figures 3, 4, and 10-14)

Length of male 3.9-4.0 mm., female 4.1 mm.

Resembling *fessulus* (Van Duzee) (redescription in Linnavouri and DeLong 1978: 228) but with apical spots on crown.

Generally pale ochraceous, with faintly indicated pattern on frontoclypeus, crown with two pairs of spots, larger pair behind ocelli and a smaller apical pair between ocelli. Face with pair of dark spots between the ends of frontoclypeal sutures and eyes.

Male genitalia: Pygofer similar to *colonus* (Uhler) but posterior process (Fig. 14) not greatly expanded at base and more sharply pointed at apex. Genital plates (Fig. 13) triangular with lateral margin short with a few macrosetae (usually four). Style (Fig. 12) with apex small, claw-like, base robust. Aedeagus (Figs. 10 & 11) long, slender, evenly curved dorsad, gonopore subapical, apex bifid, sharply pointed, and a pair of extremely short, lateral processes half distance to base.

Female seventh sternum similar to *colonus*, except median projection shorter and wider.

Holotype male, Honduras, El Zamorano, Nov.-Dec., 1970, George F. Freytag, blacklight trap; allotype female, same data except July 22 and 29, 1970, both deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Science. Paratypes: one male, same data as holotype, deposited in the Ohio State University Collection; and one male, same data, except Oct.-Nov., in the University of Kentucky Collection.

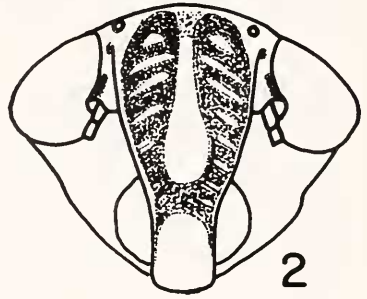
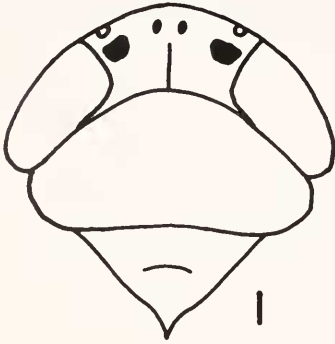
Notes: The male of *fessulus* is unknown but the color markings of the head are similar to this new species, except for the lack of the apical spots on the crown. I believe *fessulus* is a distinct species, not as Linnavouri and DeLong speculated that it would be a synonym of *colonus*.

The head and male genitalia of *colonus* (Figs. 1, 2 and 5-9) are illustrated for comparison with *gilvus*. The major difference between this

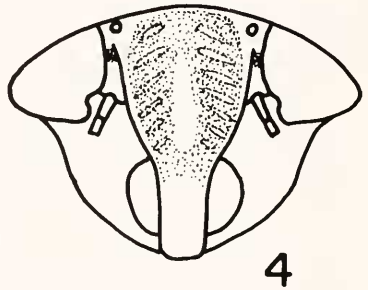
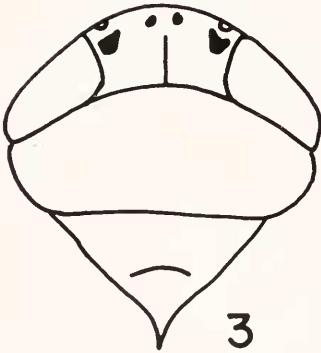
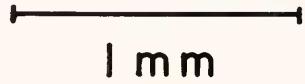
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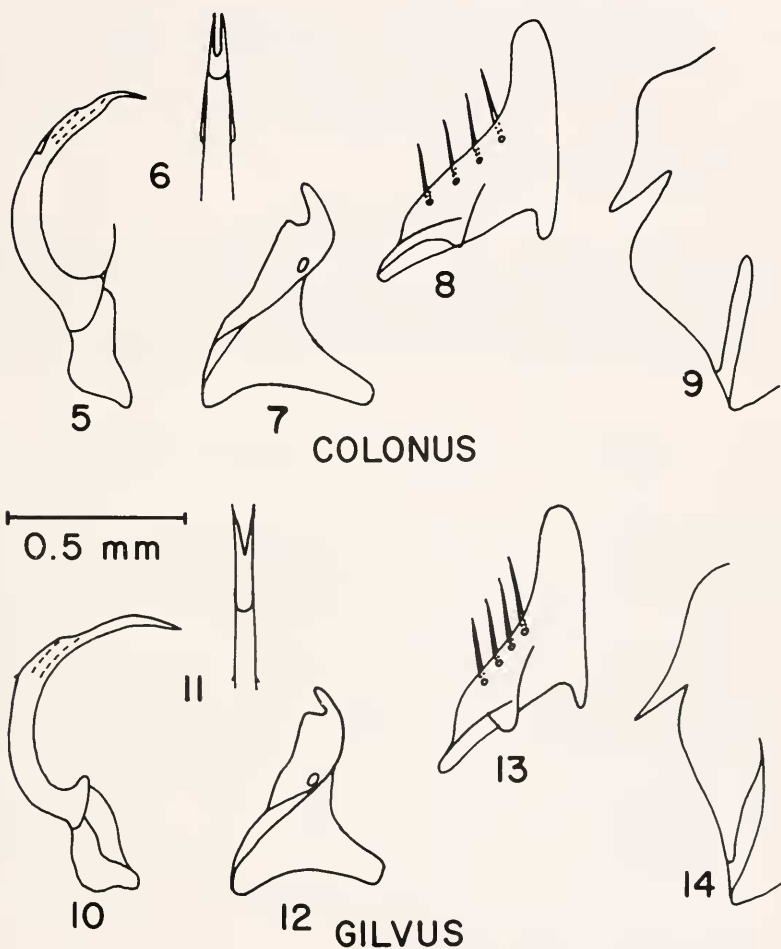


COLONUS



GILVUS

Figs. 1-2. Male *U. colonus* (Uhler). 1, head, pronotum and scutellum (dorsal aspect). 2, head (anterior aspect). Figs. 3-4. Male *U. gilvus* n. sp. 3, head, pronotum and scutellum (dorsal aspect). 4, head (anterior aspect). All drawn to the same scale.



Figs. 5-9. Male genitalia of *U. colonus* (Uhler). 5, aedeagus and connective (lateral aspect). 6, apex of aedeagus (ventral aspect). 7, style (dorsal aspect). 8, genital plate (dorsal aspect). 9, posterior margin of pyrofer (lateral aspect). Figs. 10-14. Male genitalia of *U. gilvus* n. sp. 10, aedeagus and connective (lateral aspect). 11, apex of aedeagus (ventral aspect). 12, style (dorsal aspect). 13, genital plate (dorsal aspect). 14, posterior margin of pyrofer (lateral aspect). All drawn to the same scale.

new species and *colonus* is the lack of a distinct dark pattern on the frontoclypeus, as in *colonus*, and the male aedeagus with very small medial processes, not the wing-like subapical processes as in *colonus*.

The known distributions are: *colonus* from the United States, West Indies, Panama, and most of South America, *fessulus* only from Jamaica, and *gilvus* only from Honduras. The other two species in this subgenus are both known only from Argentina.

LITERATURE CITED

- Linnavuori, R.E. 1959. Revision of the Neotropical Deltocephalinae and some related subfamilies (Homoptera). Ann. Zool. Soc. Vanamo 20: 1-370.
- Linnavuori, R.E. and D.M. DeLong. 1978. Some New or Little Known Neotropical Deltocephalinae (Homoptera: Cicadellidae). Brenesia 14-15: 227-247.

SOCIETY MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 1983

Professor Dewey Caron, Chairman of the Department of Entomology and Applied Ecology at the University of Delaware, was the featured speaker at the American Entomological Society's first regular meeting of the 1983-84 year. Thirteen members and nine guests were treated to Dr. Caron's very informative talk on the "Status of the Killer Bee."

Although the "killer bee" is morphologically almost identical to the normal European honey bee, behaviorally it is distinct and is considered to be a separate race of *Apis mellifera*. These bees are no more venomous than their European kin, but they are considerably more aggressive and will attack *en masse* with the slightest provocation. The race originated in the sub-Saharan of Africa and was introduced to Brazil in 1957. They accidentally escaped, quickly established themselves, and have now displaced commercial colonies and many native bee species throughout tropical and part of temperate South America. Currently they are advancing across Central America at the rate of 200 to 300 miles per year. They are expected to arrive in the southern United States in about 1990 and eventually to infest much of the southern and coastal United States.

The implications of this imminent arrival are hard to assess but they may be great. Bee-keeping for the hobbyist may become impossible as it has in much of South America. Culture techniques will have to change. The current 40 or so deaths per year due to bee stings may well increase. Furthermore, there is likely to be an effect on the one-third of the American diet estimated to be derived from bee pollinated crops.

Although it had been theorized that the aggressive traits of the killer bee would be diluted by mating with local bee populations, Dr. Caron's research in Panama indicates that "Africanization" occurs by displacement without hybridization. Thus it seems unlikely that their unwanted traits will be reduced by the docile local honey bees.

In notes of local entomological interest, Roger Fuester predicted that the southern New Jersey and Delaware populations of the gypsy moth would not collapse until 1985 or 1986. Other members noted the apparent abundance of earwigs, aphids, and preying mantids this fall.

Harold B. White
Corresponding Secretary